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THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

AR. - 14

14 August 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR Secretary of the Air Force  
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff  
Director of Defense Research and Engineering  
Assistant Secretary of Defense (Administration)  
Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)  
Assistant Secretary of Defense (Systems Analysis)  
Director, National Reconnaissance Office  
Director, Defense Intelligence Agency

SUBJECT: Reconnaissance Program (U)

Prior to making definitive FY 69 program/budget decisions or FY 70 program/budget decisions related to the drone program (e.g. TAGBOARD, 154, 147) and the U-2/SR-71 program, I should like to see a joint assessment which incorporates your respective views on these programs which I consider should be treated as a totality. I plan to use the assessment as a basic reference in making final decisions involving the Department of Defense reconnaissance activities and related EXCOM matters.

If appropriate, the assessment should include alternatives to the currently approved drone and U-2/SR-71 programs together with the impact of such alternatives on other elements of our over-all reconnaissance effort. Points of agreement and disagreement should be set forth clearly, as well as any differing rationale.

I request the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Administration) to establish a group chaired by a representative of his office and composed of representatives of each of the other addressees of this memorandum to complete the assessment by 1 November 1968. Please provide him with such other assistance as he may require.

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DECLASSIFICATION AND RELEASE.

Copies to:

Director of Central Intelligence ✓  
Director, Bureau of the Budget  
Director, Office of Science and Technology

Paul H. Witze

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